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Themen gestellt, sondern sie müssen vorbereitet werden. Man begnüge sich mit kurzen Arbeiten, lasse aber häufig solche ausführen; denn der kindliche Geist verlangt stürmisch nach Abwechslung, und je enger der Kreis, desto genauere Beobachtung, desto weniger Gefasel. Wenn auch Rechtschreibung und äussere Form nicht die Hauptsache sind, so dürfen sie, schon mit Hinsicht auf das praktische Leben, nicht vernachlässigt werden."

In Brüssel errichten die deutschen Behörden eine *flämische Abteilung des Lehrerseminars*.

Der Schulrat von St. Gallen verlangt, dass die Mädchen der ersten zwei Klassen der Realschule statt der seitlich getragenen Schultasche den *Schultornister* tragen, um Seitwärtsverkrümmungen des Rückgrates zu verhüten.

Über den *Einfluss dieses Krieges auf die Schule* schreibt die Schweizerische Lehrerzeitung: „Angesichts der fast übermenschlichen Anstrengungen, die hüben und drüben gemacht werden, erscheint es fast wie ein Wunder, dass in den kriegführenden Ländern Fragen der Wissenschaft, der Schule, der Erziehung ebenso lebhaft, ja kräftiger als zuvor erörtert werden. Ist es nicht ein Grosses, dass die schwer mitgenommenen Staaten trotz aller Lasten des Krieges ihr Unterrichtsbudget aufrecht erhalten, ja vermehren, wie Sachsen und Preussen? .... Die Bewegung, welche die Jugend ergriffen hat, um ihren Tätigkeitstrieb und Freiheitsdrang durch eigene Organisation Genüge werden zu lassen (Pfadfinder,

Wandervogel u. s. w.) wird nicht ohne heilsame Folgen auf die Ausbildung des künftigen Bürgers sein. .... Eine ganz besondere Aufmerksamkeit widmet Deutschland dem „Aufstieg der Tüchtigen“. Freie Bahn dem Talent! lautet die Losung, unter der die besondere Ausbildung der gut- und meistbefähigten Kinder aller Stände gefordert und gefördert wird. Unter diesem Gesichtspunkt gewinnt der Kampf um die Einheitsschule, den die deutsche Lehrerschaft mit aller Kraft anhebt, erhöhte Bedeutung. Im Ausblick auf die handelspolitischen Möglichkeiten der Zukunft suchen die grossen Staaten ihre jungen Leute auch *sprachlich* und kaufmännisch tüchtig auszubilden. *Das Studium der fremden Sprachen erlebt einen neuen Aufschwung*, da und dort nach einer etwas anderen Richtung. In Deutschland wird das Studium des Türkischen und der morgenländischen Sprachen tatkräftig aufgenommen; in Ungarn wird mehr Deutsch gelehrt. England hat einen grossen Unterrichtsausschuss mit der Aufgabe betraut, die Beziehungen der Spracherlernung zu der Entwicklung des Handelns zu studieren. .... Wie über Nacht schritten die Fragen der nationalen Erziehung, des staatsbürgerlichen Unterrichts in den Vordergrund der öffentlichen Erörterung. Noch stehen wir mitten in dieser Bewegung. Die angefachte Erörterung zeitigt doch manche Klärung; sie hilft kräftig mit, das Bewusstsein zu stärken, dass aller Unterricht Gegenwartsunterricht ist und dass wir aus der unterricht ist, und dass wir aus der und die Zukunft vorzubereiten haben."

John Andressohn.

## Bücherschau.

### I. Five Books About Modern Germany.

By Otto W. Greubel, University of Wisconsin.

In these stirring times an almost impossible task confronts the author who undertakes to write a history of modern Germany. The material for the period after 1870 is so interwoven with propaganda for or against, that it might well appear beyond human power to extricate from it the facts. And so deeply have the hearts and minds of all thinking persons been enlisted by the tremendous issues of the present conflict that we have ceased to expect objectivity even of the historian. All we can ask of him is that

he use his utmost effort to overcome the tendency toward partiality, and that he refrain from adopting that unreasoning, vituperative tone that has disgraced nine-tenths or more of the publications on the subject.

We are going to examine five volumes about modern Germany that have all come highly recommended by various authorities, but which, on thorough inspection, vary so widely from one another as to intention, execution, fairness and correctness, that a comparative review appeared well worth undertaking.

*Germany Since 1740.* By *George Madison Priest.* (Boston, Ginn & Co., 1914). This is an unpretentious little volume, intended by the author to serve as an introduction to German history for American readers. The immense material is condensed into a comparatively small compass by the omission of all but essentials, and by the discussion of these in a concentrated, matter-of-fact style. The book is a handy volume for reference, with chronological sections and numbered sub-heads.

The attitude toward the subject matter remains one of coolness and fairness until the magic date 1871 is reached, when instances of partisanship and one-sided presentation occur in great abundance. For example, the tremendous mass of social legislation of the last quarter century in Germany is dealt with in a few lukewarm lines, while Pan-Germanism receives two pages of over-emphasis. Also, the counterparts of Pan-Germanism in other countries, Pan-Slavism and the Anglo-Saxon solidarity movement, are scarcely mentioned. The extremes of nationalistic tendencies in the various countries are unthinkable except as mutual counter-irritants, as deplorable and dangerous in one country as in another.

Priest believes that 1871 is the unfortunate date when the German people turned from the gentler ideals of life to the stern and selfish ones. "They lost, in turn, however, the sublimest inspiration of German life and thought, faith in the power of ideals, faith in ideals not supported by might; therein lies for the world and not for Germany alone the tragedy of the events leading up to 1871." (P. 123). Germany undoubtedly played her great part in the revival of nationalism that gripped all of Europe in the latter part of the century, still it appears somewhat unhistorical to represent her alone as most reprehensible by understating the share of the other participants in the movement.

Mr. Priest has adopted the Entente version of Germany's Morocco policy. He knows that Germany's attempt to participate in the exploitation of northern Africa was of the same nature as that of Great Britain, Italy, and Russia in other parts of the unprotected world. Yet he says: "To foreign observers the Franco-German agreement of 1911 afforded convincing evidence of a highly dangerous spirit of aggression in Germany." (Page 180). Why in Germany alone? Were the other sheep in the European fold any whiter?

Incredulity seizes one at the words: "France was drawn into war by Germany's invasion of French territory." (Page 184). Did France's iron-clad alliance with Russia have nothing to do with it? The world has been accustomed for many years to consider the Franco-Russian Alliance as a settled factor in the international game.

A few sentences at the close of the book which endeavor to re-establish a juster balance by distributing some blame among all the contestants can hardly be said to offset the partiality of whole sections preceding them. It is a misfortune that the work was completed during the hysterical months immediately following the outbreak of the war, for in the brief period since then the sensible

opinion of both the belligerent and the neutral countries has been emancipating itself from the high-sounding slogans that meant so much in those days. If the author could undertake a revision for the removal of at least the most glaringly one-sided statements his work might stand as a very useful and handy little reference book.

*The Making of Modern Germany.* By *Ferdinand Schevill*. (Chicago, McClurg and Co., 1916.) This is a work of construction and interpretation rather than a reference book. In style and spirit it contrasts very favorably with the preceding volume, for it possesses a variety and richness of vocabulary and a warmth of tone that lend vitality to its theme. In spite of the sympathy of the author for the subject of his book, there is no infringement on the spirit of scholarship. It has been possible for Professor Schevill to approach the problems of one nation understandingly without at the same time representing all its neighbors as its moral or intellectual inferiors.

The first chapter is a masterpiece of concentration. It delineates tersely and at the same time interestingly the disintegration of the Thirty Years' War, the social decay, the economic wretchedness and helplessness of the many small independent states against aggression from strong neighbors, and the rise, from such a chaos, of one state that promised to lead in the struggle against disorganization. We see the growth, under the Great Elector, of a dual conception of the functions of a state, a conception that was to increase in power until it formed the fundamental principle of a mighty empire. The Great Elector "felt that without a compact government, the social order and co-operation which were necessary after the long anarchy of war could not be attained, nor the assurance be given to peasant and citizen that they would enjoy the product of their labor. Under the system he had in mind, the taxes assessed according to law would flow into a central treasury and be applied by state officials to genuine community ends, such as justice, roads and canals, forests and mines, and, finally, an army." Here we have the beginning of the German idea of Government: a powerful organization devoted to the service of all.

Throughout the volume the progress of Germany toward the modern Empire is measured in terms of these two ideas, power and service. It is not described as constant progress, for we see many instances where the striving toward power is abused or where the idea of service is lost from view. The author does not gloss over the more inglorious phases of Frederick the Great's acquisitive policy, nor the repressive period when pusillanimous kings forgot their plighted word to the people. But he shows how, again and again, when great spirits like Frederick, Stein and Bismarck led the nation forward, they found the key to progress in the rejuvenation of the old idea: power and service. And how today the idea of state responsibility for the welfare of all has gradually been perfected until it approaches collectivism.

By the light of Schevill's explanation it is easy for the veriest beginner to see that the splendid humanitarian work embraced in the social legislation of Germany, and the militarism that supports the whole system against outside encroachments are not contradictions. The contention that Bismarck promulgated this legislation only as a sop to revolution appears ridiculous when one considers how all the great German statesmen looked upon the problem of social amelioration. Social legislation was as much Bismarck's heritage from the past, as his policy of blood and iron.

In contrast with the German idea of collectivism, Schevill places British individualism. He says: "Now in the historic succession of social forms the

British individualist organization holds a notable place and has for several hundred years done splendid service." The author believes that the best system for the future will represent an amalgamation of the good features of both individualism and collectivism.

From a man of such constructive vision we can expect something more than the usual pessimistic wall about the breakdown of civilization. He points to the hope of a brighter future: "on the basis of a new social purpose and a higher social organization." (Page 205). He ends by expressing a sincere desire that all the great civilizations shall come forth from the struggle unharmed in their vital powers: "May not one people be permanently injured by this fratricidal struggle! May they all manage to survive the storm and continue to add to the diversity, the charm, and the energy of the movement of human life!" (Page 206).

*The German Empire Between Two Wars.* By Robert Herndon Fife, Jr. (New York, MacMillan, 1916.) The purpose of this volume is set forth by the author in his preface: "For those who can lay aside the prejudices of the moment and seek in a spirit of impartiality to understand the immediate past of Germany and its people, it is hoped that this work will be of help." When one considers the great variety of subjects discussed by the author, the wealth of material that he has organized under different sub-heads, and the care that he has exercised in cleansing the volume of dubious or unauthenticated substance, it must be admitted that he has achieved remarkable success.

The first chapter, entitled *The French Mortgage*, clears away much controversial rubbish that has made the Alsace-Lorraine question so difficult. We see here a thousand-year old border dispute, so aggravated by the last violent settlement of 1870-71, that the succeeding forty years were nothing but an armed peace between the two countries. The jingoism of super-patriotic journalism was merely the outward manifestation of a quarrel that lay in the blood, so to speak, an inheritance of the ages. In the words of the author: "The conflicts between the Germanic and the Romanic world, which have flowed unceasingly back and forth across the Vosges and up and down across the Moselle and the Meuse, left an inheritance of hate and distrust which all of the progress of civilization has only intensified and embittered; and one must search history carefully indeed to find in modern times an instance where two nations standing at the forefront in the arts of peace have faced each other for so long a period ready for instant war." (Page 25).

The second chapter, which concerns the relations between Russia, Austria and Germany, describes the irrepressible national enthusiasm called Pan-Slavism, and its influence on the relations between Austria and Germany. For Austria, Pan-Slavism conjured up a border problem as dangerous as the French Mortgage was for Germany. How this danger gradually assumed the aspect of a terrible nightmare for Austria, and how a firm alliance with Germany presented the only means of self-defense is very well described in this chapter. In fact, this is one of the best attempts to present the problem in a nutshell to the American public.

Anglo-German rivalry, the subject of the next chapter, is approached by the author with a deep feeling of regret. It is a painful theme, the bandying back and forth of accusations and recriminations that had for their basic motive commercial rivalry. A feeling of tension already existed between the two nations when the Boer war broke out and gave the German papers an occasion to fortify their antagonism by the espousal of a just cause. All the other

nations concurred in the German verdict on the Boer war, but the fundamental antagonism between British and German interests that was uncovered by the outbreak of the controversy could not be subdued by the healing influence of time, as was the case between Great Britain and the other nations. Fife is inclined to blame the German press more than the British for the violence of the newspaper war, and does not credit the German people with a genuine sympathy for the Boers. He charges that the Germans were only too eager to believe every anti-British tale concocted by their press, no matter how far-fetched and contradictory it seemed. After this, the press war was waged so bitterly on both sides that the most trivial occasions seemed likely to precipitate a conflict. The author takes the view that the question of Belgium was a mere incidental cause of a war that was bound to come. In his words: "Ever since the Boer war the stage was being set for conflict, and if in 1911 over a question in which the safety of British commerce was only indirectly involved peace could scarcely be maintained, it is hardly thinkable that in a struggle which put at stake the entire balance of the European continent, the British people would stand idly by while the Central powers triumphed. This was a fact, and the diplomatic sparring revealed in White and Yellow and Orange books and papers reads like the arguments of clever lawyers over a case which all had decided must be appealed to a higher court." (Page 70).

The author puts some blame on Germany for not attempting to enter the race for public opinion which preceded the war on an equal footing with her prospective opponents. He gives the palm for influence in moulding public sentiment to the great international news gatherer, Reuter's Bureau, which was busy for years in scattering information colored according to the wishes of its patrons. "The picture of Germany as the naughty boy on the international playground was drawn and retouched by the Russian, French and British press until the popular mind outside of Europe came to accept it without question. Here the Germans were greatly handicapped by the lack of an international press agency of standing. Reuter's Bureau, which enwraps the world with its network of correspondents, is under British control." (Page 73).

The chapter dealing with the Empire at Home contains a very timely discussion of German party politics and party struggles. We see what a tremendous task confronts the home government in guiding the innumerable factions that have grown up because of German political vehemence and unreadiness to make concessions. We come to understand that with all the parties working at cross purposes a strong central power appears absolutely necessary to so many Germans. They firmly believe that the chaos of party strife would leave them helpless under the emergencies of foreign policy unless there were the powerfully cementing traditional bond of monarchy. The author points out tendencies toward the evolution of more and more democratic influence in German government, but he believes that, no matter what kind of government is finally evolved it must provide for a very strong central power.

The chapter dealing with the German cities will undoubtedly interest the American reader more than any other. It describes the German municipality as a joint stock corporation conducted on strictly business principles by experts, who are not entrusted with the business until they have proved their ability as administrators. And although, as Fife declares, the political power is mainly in the hands of the capitalists, so great is their public spirit that the city government can take up ambitious projects for the general welfare and for social betterment, such as municipal employment bureaus, municipal theatres, univer-

sities, lecture bureaus, continuation schools and cheap but good musical performances. We read that, although many Germans find the constant meddling of the police in the citizens' affairs irksome, they are willing to bear it because the benefits outweigh the drawbacks.

There is only one section in Fife's work with which one is tempted to seriously disagree, and that is the description of the German press. The German people have been progressing rapidly, very rapidly in the last few years, and judgments that might have been correct a decade ago have already become antiquated. The German press has long suffered under the odium of Schopenhauer's caustic remarks concerning the slovenliness and dullness of its style, and it has long been a term of reproach to say that a piece of writing was "newspaper German." This may still hold good for numerous provincial publications, but it would seem that the recent progress of the great metropolitan dailies has been so great, that a revision of judgment is necessary.

Considered as a whole, Fife's book possesses the cardinal virtues of simplicity, clearness and fairness. It treats a subject at sufficient length and with sufficient thoroughness to impart a definite idea of its significance, while it avoids the deadly sin of dullness. A book that one may recommend to the American public with a good conscience.

(To be concluded.)

## II. Eingesandte Bücher.

*The Sounds and History of the German Language.* By E. Prokosch, Professor of Germanic Languages in the University of Texas. Henry Holt and Company, New York. 1916. \$1.75.

*Die Journalisten.* Lustspiel in vier Akten von Gustav Freytag. Edited with introduction, notes, and vocabulary by Walter Dallam Toy, Professor of Germanic Languages in the University of North Carolina. Entirely new edition. D. C. Heath & Co., New York. 45 cts.

*An den Ufern des Rheins.* Vom Bodensee bis zu den Niederlanden. Edited by Philip Schuyler Allen, Associate Professor of German Literature in the University of Chicago. New York. Henry Holt and Company. \$1.

*Notebook of Modern Languages.* Prepared by J. H. B. Spiers, William Penn Charter School, Philadelphia. D. C. Heath & Co., New York. 35 cts.

*Deutsches Lesebuch mit Sprech- und Sprachübungen.* By Peter Scherer, Director of Modern Languages, Indiana-

polis Public Schools. Henry Holt and Company, New York. 60 cts.

*German Poems for Memorizing.* With the music to some of the poems. Edited with vocabulary by Oscar Burkhard, Assistant Professor of German in the University of Minnesota. Henry Holt and Company. New York. 40 cts.

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